

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM  
MEETING NOTES  
February 5, 2003  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM  
HOUSE  
PORTLAND, OREGON**

# **DRAFT**

**FACILITATOR’S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS**

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the “record” of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

**Stream Flow Predictions:**

Harold Opitz, River Forecast Center, continued his presentation from the last TMT meeting on the Single Trace Procedure (STP), a new forecasting model that the RFC is using. He stressed that this model is to be used for a 45-120 day period and is NOT intended for longer temporal periods. Its purpose is to be used as a step toward the ESP model. RFC’s hope is to “exploit” ESP capabilities by March 2003. Harold will discuss with other agencies how to present information and how the model could be used in lieu of the SAR model. Rudd Turner, COE, noted that this model could possibly be used this year to make decisions about spill at Snake River projects in the spring.

**Chum Updates:**

Ron Boyce, Oregon, provided a letter expressing Oregon’s concerns for the NMFS recommended operation from the January 24<sup>th</sup> TMT conference call, as promised. Ron will also distribute the letter electronically. Oregon’s main concern is how to account for stored water. Ron acknowledged some reprieve over the last few weeks, but would like to continue discussions about spring flows.

Scott Bettin, BPA, asked when this emergence will be complete in order to make more informed decisions for future operations. The objective remains to meet Vernita Bar without impacting Grand Coulee storage. TMT agreed that they will gather and share further information for discussion at the February 19<sup>th</sup> TMT meeting. Until then, the operation will remain as discussed during the 1/24 conference call.

Ron Boyce provided information on the Ive’s Island area. Two emerged frye were found on January 31<sup>st</sup> and a total of ninety emerged Chinook were recorded.

**Action:** Ron will arrange for a field trip to look at seining sites at the Ive’s Island complex, either later this month or in March.

**Current System Conditions:**

*Fish status:* Ron Boyce presented information from a joint Oregon/Washington report. A large adult Chinook return is projected. The information can be found on ODFW's web site.

*Reservoir operations:* Rudd Turner, COE, and Tony Norris, BOR, reported on each of their projects. Dworshak is at 1541.2' and still operating under flood control. Grand Coulee is full. The runoff forecast for Brownlee is still very low, at 56%.

**Other:**

*Spring/summer Update:* The COE will draft a Spring/Summer Update to the WMP when the final February water supply forecast is released. The agency hopes to present the update to TMT at the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. **If anyone has additions or changes to the update, please contact Rudd Turner or Scott Boyd before the 2/19 TMT meeting.**

*Lower Granite/McNary/Lower Monumental:* Rudd Turner reported on work that is occurring at each of these projects. A surface bypass collector is scheduled to be removed by April 1 at Lower Granite. This issue will be revisited at the next TMT meeting. There will be a RSW test at Lower Granite in the spring – details to follow. Gate hoist tests at McNary were scheduled to begin today. Water quality standards may be exceeded; the COE is coordinating with Oregon and Washington on this. Construction at the Lower Monumental spillway will continue until the end of February.

**Next Meeting, February 19, 9-noon:**

Agenda Items:

- Chum Emergence Data
- Water Management Plan Spring/Summer Update
- Q Adjust – February Finals
- Current System Conditions
- Review SOR's
- Develop Recommended Operations

***1. Greeting and Introductions***

The February 5 Technical Management Team meeting was chaired by Rudd Turner of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Turner at 503/808-3935.

***2. Streamflow Predictions – STP Results.***

Harold Opitz described the River Forecast Center's new Single-Trace Process (STP) for predicting weekly streamflows in the Columbia Basin, noting that it relies on current and historical data (dating back to 1948) from more than 350 individual basins in the region to produce its model runs. The River Forecast Center feels STP offers a number of advantages over the old SSARR model; Opitz said the RFC will begin posting the STP runs to its website in early March; if he can complete data input to the model in time, STP will replace SSARR as the primary streamflow modeling tool this spring. Opitz spent a few minutes describing how STP works and demonstrating its capabilities.

Opitz noted that, based on the most recent forecast information, precipitation will need to be 165% of normal between now and July 1 if Columbia Basin runoff volumes are to approach normal in 2003. Based on the historic record, he said, this will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve, although that is not to say the water supply forecast will not improve over the course of the spring. In response to a question, Opitz said the STP forecast extends 45 days into the future.

### ***3. Chum Update.***

Ron Boyce began this agenda item by distributing copies of a February 4 letter from ODFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to BPA, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps. He explained that the letter lays out salmon manager concerns about the potential impact of any reduction in the Bonneville tailwater elevation on chum incubation and rearing in the Ives/Pierce Island areas. The letter is intended as a formal review of the salmon managers' concerns, said Boyce; it is not our intent to elevate this issue to the IT at this time, given the fact that there appears to be plenty of water in the system to maintain the current tailwater depth, currently. However, the long-term forecast indicates that, eventually, the chum operation will begin to impact Grand Coulee elevations, said Boyce; at that point, we will need to have additional discussions about this operation. Boyce said the salmon managers are continuing to discuss this operation, and will provide some further information at the February 19 TMT meeting.

Boyce added that field crews have begun seining for chum fry at a number of sites in the Ives/Pierce Island area, looking for signs of emergence; however, no fry counts are available at this time due to high water elevations over the redds. I'll continue to update the TMT on emergence as more information becomes available, Boyce said. The group also discussed a potential TMT field trip to the Ives/Pierce Island spawning area, probably some time in March.

### ***4. Current System Conditions.***

Boyce began with information on the 2003 adult return forecast, noting that the predicted run of 109,000 spring chinook in the Willamette is the third-highest on record. The current estimate for the Snake River spring chinook run is 145,400 fish, plus 87,600 fall chinook. The estimated 2003 sockeye run of 22,100 is the sixth-lowest on record, Boyce said.

Moving on to current system conditions, Turner said the current flow at Bonneville is 194 Kcfs, with an 18-foot tailwater elevation. Dworshak is currently at elevation 1541.2 feet and filling. The current elevation at Libby is 2408.2 feet; the project continues to release minimum discharge. Albeni Falls is essentially full, at elevation 2059.9 feet. Tony Norris added that Grand Coulee is full and releasing 89.2 Kcfs; Hungry Horse is at elevation 3513.2 feet and releasing the enough water to meet the Columbia Falls minimum flow. Given the current state of the forecast, the prospects for Hungry Horse refill do not look good in 2003, Norris added.

### ***5. New System Operational Requests.***

No new SORs were submitted prior to today's meeting.

**6. Recommended Operations.**

Turner said the current system operation will continue for the foreseeable future.

**7. Other.**

**A. 2003 Water Management Plan Spring/Summer Update.** Turner said the Corps will begin to work on the spring/summer update when the next water supply forecast becomes available; we should have a draft for you to look at at the next TMT meeting, he said. If there are any changes you would like to see to this document this year, please communicate them to me or to Scott Boyd prior to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Lower Granite Surface Bypass Removal.** Turner reported that the removal project is going forward and will be completed within two weeks; the only holdup is the current high flows in the system, because some Lower Granite units will need to be taken out of service for diver safety.

**C. McNary Spill Gate Hoist Testing.** Turner said the Corps plans to spill up to 32 Kcfs at McNary for one to two hours today and tomorrow, to test the gate hoist on Spill Bay 11 at that project. TDG levels below the project are expected to be in the 110%-130% range during the test. He said Oregon DEQ has been informed of the test; the purpose of which is to address a Corps safety issue.

**D. Lower Monumental Spillway Repairs.** Turner said the contractor is still working on the repairs to the Lower Monumental spillway; the repair work will be completed by February 14, and the contractor will be out by the end of February.

**E. New Water Supply Forecast.** Turner said the Corps plans to re-run their water supply forecast once the February early-bird forecast is available; the TMT agreed that this would be helpful.

**8. Next TMT Meeting Date.**

The next face-to-face meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, February 19. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

**TMT PARTICIPANT LIST**

**February 5, 2003**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Rudd Turner	COE
Tony Norris	USBR

Scott Bettin	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA Fisheries
Shane Scott	WDFW
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Tina Lundell	COE
Mike O'Bryant	Columbia Basin Bulletin
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Tom Haymaker	PNGC
Chris Ross	NOAA Fisheries
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